Statement

"Steps taken by the Government to stop poaching of tigers and other wild animals in the country"

(i) Hunting of wild animals included in Schedules I to IV of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, has been banned by law.

(ii) Special measures for protection and conservation of tiger, elephants and rhinos and their habitat are being implemented.

(iii) A network of 441 Wildlife Sanctuaries and 80 National Parks covering 1,48,000 sq. km. has been set up for conservation of wild flora and fauna. The Govt. of India have also launched the "Project Tiger" and "Project Elephant" in the years 1973 and 1991 respectively to give impetus to the conservation of these wild animals. Financial assistance is provided by the Central Government under various centrally sponsored plan schemes, including the Project Tiger and Project Elephant Schemes, & for development of National Parks and Sanctuaries on request from the State Governments.

(iv) Raids are carried out by the wildlife authorities, whenever information of illegal trading in wildlife animals reaches them.

(v) International Trade in Endangered Species of animals and articles made thereof is regulated under the provisions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). The trade in ivory is totally banned.

(vi) Regional and Sub-regional offices of Wildlife Preservation have been set up mostly at the main export centres of the country to prevent smuggling of wildlife products.

(vii) Interdepartmental coordination has been enhanced with other enforcement organisations like Police, BSF, Customs, ITBP, Coast Guards etc. Training programmes on wildlife enforcement and implementation were also conducted for all these organisations at New Delhi and Dehradun during 1995.

(viii) A "Tiger Crisis Cell" has been set up in the Ministry to suggest improvement in the management of tiger bearing areas of the country.

(ix) The State Governments have been advised to strengthen vigilance and intensify patrolling.

(x) Steps are being initiated to set up "Special Strike Force" in the Projec Tiger areas;

(xi) A Protocol has been signed with the Govt. of Peoples' Republic of China to coordinate bilateral issues concerning tiger conservation and to check smuggling and the illegal trade of tiger bones and other parts of its body; and

(xii) Steps have been initiated by the Government to establish the 'Global Tiger Forum' for strengthening international cooperation to curb poaching of tiger and to coordinate efforts for the conservation of tiger and its habitat throughout the tiger range countries.

कपास का कम उत्पादन

341. श्री रामजी लाल: क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि इस वर्ष कपास का उत्पादन बहुत कम रहा है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं;

(ग) क्या यह भी सच है कि हरियाणा में कपास के कम उत्पादन के मुख्य कारणों में से एक कारण कपास की फसल में "सोनी" नामक कीड़ा लग जाना है;

(घ) क्या यह भी सच है कि उक्त कीड़ा कीटनाशकों के छिड़काव से भी नहीं मरता है; और

(ङ) यदि हां, तो इस समस्या के समाधान के लिए तथा उतपादन में वृद्धि लाने के लिए सरकार ने क्या कदम उठाए हैं और इसका ब्यौरा क्या है?

कृषि मंत्री (श्री चतुरानन मिश्र): (क) जी, नहीं।

(ख) प्रश्न ही नहीं होता।

(ग) जी, नहीं।

(घ) तथा (ङ) प्रश्न ही नहीं होता।

Report of the study group on commercial utilization of land

342. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received the report of the study group set-up by the Maharashtra Government and the Railway Ministry regarding commercial utilization of land near railway stations of Kurla;

(b) if so, the findings of the study group; and

(c) the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Central University Status to Manipur University

343. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a proposal from the State Government of Manipur to convert the Manipur University into a Central University,

(b) if so, Government's response thereto; and

(c) if Government are not considering the proposal favourably, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (c) While no formal proposal has been received from the State Government in this behalf, the Central Government does not encourage further setting up of Central Universities keeping in view the restrictions contained in the National Policy on Education-1986, as amended 1992.

"Sale of Cielo Cars"

344. PROF. O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether DCM-Dawooe has sold thousands of its Cielo cars in the country without catalytic, thereby violating the directions of the Supreme Court no cars will be sold without catalytic fitted therein;

(b) if so, whether Government have conducted any investigation into the matter and found these Cielo cars without catalytic fittings; and

(c) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken against the manufacturer; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Facilities under the Railway Passenger Facility Expansion Scheme

345. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are providing certain facilities under the Railway passenger facility expansion scheme; and

(b) if so, whether any time-bound action plan has been prepared in respect of all the States, particularly Rajasthan and Orissa, indicating budgetary provisions made during 1995-96 and 1996-97 and amount spent (State-wise) and (year-wise) till 5th November, 1996?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) There is no such scheme as Rail